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National Campaign for *Freedom of Expression*

July 25, 1994

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the National Campaign for Freedom of Expression and our members across the country, we urge you to support Senator Jeffords amendment to restore the 5% cut in the NEA budget for FY95. We also encourage you to oppose any new attempts to add additional content restrictions on the Endowments guiding language.

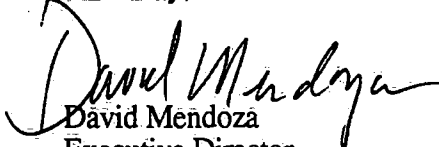
The five percent cuts recommended by Senator Byrd, expressly directed at three NEA programs - Theater Arts, Visual Arts and Inter-Arts programs - are a punitive effort to restrict freedom of expression. These cuts will reduce the funding levels in these three programs by 40+% and will have a devastating impact on arts organizations across the country.

The NEA is being used once again by far right groups to raise huge sums of money to fund a political agenda that goes far beyond the Endowment. According to an article in the June 30, *Chicago Tribune*, the Christian Action Network mailed over 50,000 direct mail pleas to supporters "declaring war" on the NEA. The letters were full of lies and misinformation about the NEA and helped them raise over \$43,000.

We support the NEA and its chair, Jane Alexander, in her defense of the funding policies of the agency and the right to guarantee freedom of expression to grant recipients such as the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. Please support Senator Jeffords amendment to restore the targeted 5% funding cuts proposed by Senator Byrd.

It is time to stand firmly against the attacks on the NEA.

Sincerely,


David Mendoza
Executive Director



Patrick Scott
President of the Board